इस मामले में राष्ट्रीय प्राणी उद्यान में अब निदेशक की नियुक्ति कर दी गयी है और उन्हें यह सुनिश्चित करने की सलाह दी गई है कि चिड़ियाघर में काम करने की परिस्थितियां ठीक हों तथा अनुशासनहीनता को रोकने के लिए सख्त उपाय किए जाएं ।

Finalisation oi th$_e$ Eighth Five Year Plan

66. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA- Will the PRIME MIINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Eighth Five Year Plan is likely to be finalised;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any changes in the plan process?

THE PRIME. MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The process of formulating and finalising the Eighth Five Year Plan was behind schedule even when the present Government took office. With the change in Government with a fresh mandate from the people, the objectives, strategies and priorities of the Plan will need to be re-examined and re-cast. It is not possible at this stage to indicate $_a$ precise date for the finalisation of the Eighth Plan.

(c) The Government is committed to a planning process that would emphasize genuin$_e$ federalism and multilevel .consultations and democratic decentralisation.

Capitation fee in private engineering and medical colleges

67. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the legal ban on charging of capitation fees from students at the time of admission, a huge amount of capitation fee is charged from students by most of the private engineering and medical colleges in some of the States; **and**

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government i$_n$ this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. KL. MENON): (a) and (b) The Central Government and the All India Coun-ci)l for Technical Eduoation have been urging the State Governments to take appropriate action to prevent charging of capitation fee for admission to technical institutions. AICTE) Act also provides for steps to prevent commercialisation, of technical education.

Some of the States where capitation fee had been prevalent—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra—have since passed State Acta to ban capitation fees. These States have also informed that capitation fee is no longer being charged. However, at present there is no legislation in Tamil Nadu banning capitation fee and as per the information from the State Government capitation fee is being collected by private colleges under the guise of donation.

In so far as medical education is concerned, $_a$ Bill to amend the lndian Medical Council Act, 1956 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. This Bill, however, is yet to be approved by the Parliament.

पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रमों द्वारा प्रशिक्षित अध्यापकों को डिग्रियां तथा डिप्लोमे दिए जाना

68. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में प्रति वर्ष कितने लोगों को पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम द्वारा डिग्रियां तथा डिप्लोमे दिए जा रहे हैं तथा देश में इस योजना के अधीन ऐसी डिग्रियां तथा डिप्लोमे प्रदान करने वाले महाविद्यालयों तथा संस्थाओं की वर्तमान संख्या क्या है ; और

(ख) पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम द्वारा डिग्रियां आदि दिए जाने में होने वाली